

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF METRO WEST

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Family Service of Metro West, based in Morris County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Jewish Family Service (JFS) began its community assistance during the 1860s as the Hebrew Benevolent and Orphan Asylum dedicated to helping orphans and the needy in Newark, New Jersey. Over the past 150 years, JFS has become a well known, comprehensive, social service agency which reaches more than 3,500 families each year. JFS proudly serves Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Hudson Counties with offices located in Florham Park, Livingston and Jersey City.

JFS is an inclusive, non-discriminatory agency offering more than 40 wide-ranging programs including, counseling, support groups and eldercare. Counseling is provided for individuals or families who are struggling with communication difficulties, life transitions, loss or abuse. Support groups for eldercare, those with Aspergers and those facing parenting issues and divorce are also available. All services are preformed by highly skilled staff members consisting of clinical social workers, case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists. The dedication of the JFS staff is continually affirmed through their prompt and compassionate support.

JFS promotes family relationships with services such as family play therapy, parenting workshops and adoption services. Putting their clients and families at the center of their team-based approach helps strengthen positive family values. JFS also supplies a 24-hour crisis response line, offers financial assistance, debt management and volunteer services.

As one of New Jersey's oldest and well-respected family service agencies, the Jewish Family Service of Metro West clinical social work team offers the experience, expertise and compassion that deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Family Service of Metro West as it celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY FIRE COMPANY #1

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company #1 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

One does not need to look far to see signs of the distinguished history of Huntingdon Valley Fire Company. After their founding the company used a local barn to store their equipment; that barn still stands just up the

road from the current firehouse. After struggling to raise funds for equipment, a locomotive tire was donated to the company to be used as an alarm bell. The tire is currently hanging in front of the firehouse. The fire company's website shows pictures of every major piece of equipment the company has owned in its century long history.

In addition to the ties to their founding, the fire company also has a consistent record of being strongly supported by the community. The use of the old barn to store their first pieces of equipment in 1911 was volunteered by a local resident. To raise funds for their first fire wagon in 1911 the company held carnivals, dances, and minstrel shows for the community. Their first make-shift fire alarm, the locomotive tire, was donated by the Midvale Steel Company. In 1912 the four wheeled fire cart was pulled by the closest two horses available. When the fire company needed to build a new addition to their garage it was built and paid for by members of the company. In 1929 the residents contributed the funds necessary to purchase a piece of modern fire equipment. With the growth in population of the 1940's it became clear that the fire company needed additional funds to continue to provide fire protection. A question was raised and the community agreed that a fire tax was necessary to ensure that the company had the funds needed to purchase and maintain modern firefighting equipment.

Over the 100 years that Huntingdon Valley fire company has been protecting its residents they have upgraded their equipment, modernized their operation, and expanded their services. Through the decades, the fire company has never lost sight of their original goal of fulfilling the time honored tradition of volunteers risking their lives to protect their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company as they mark their 100th year of protecting the community.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN ON TWENTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important ally of ours in the South Caucasus region, Azerbaijan, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence as a democratic nation. Despite the global recession, Azerbaijan has experienced strong economic growth in each of the past three years, in part due to increased immigration as people from surrounding nations have found that Azerbaijan affords the greatest opportunity for employment, stability and security for working families in the region.

Azerbaijan continues to face unique challenges that it must overcome to maintain the promise of its independent democratic principles. This country of eight million people occupies the Western shore of the Caspian Sea, bordering Russia to the North and Iran to the South. This region contains vast oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, with Azerbaijan owning one-third of these valuable deposits, but it must be vigilant in main-

taining independence of action regarding the use and distribution of its extracted resources. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

In the early 1990's, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia, and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. Since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim nation that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish synagogues in Baku alone. Israel is an important oil customer of theirs, and in the past year, honored Azerbaijani teams that worked alongside Israelis in fighting large wildfires that ravaged northern Israel. And of major importance, Azerbaijan bolsters U.S. efforts in Afghanistan through troops and airfields that provide logistical support.

It is important that America continue to encourage Azerbaijan in its democratic and economic growth, and highlight the progress made in these last twenty years. Congratulations, Azerbaijan.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY OMS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was National Missing Children's Day, a reminder that although progress has been made, child protection must remain a national priority.

Each day, in the United States, more than 2,185 children are reported missing and approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year.

This past April marked one year since Ali Lowitzer of Spring, Texas went missing.

Ali's plans were to ride the school bus and go straight to work after school at the local burger shop.

She did not come home after work though, and Mrs. Lowitzer put in a call to the police when she could not get in touch with her daughter.

The search began soon after and continues today.

We cannot give up hope and must continue to be vigilant to guard our children and bring Ali and all other missing children back home.

Congress has passed significant laws to keep children safe, but must always be looking to what we can do to further ensure the security of the most innocent.

And that's just the way it is.